

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on December 13, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 and the specification. Claims 1 and 11 are the independent claims. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been respectively objected to because of various informalities. In response thereto, claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been editorially amended to correct the informalities noted by the examiner. It is therefore requested that this objection be withdrawn.

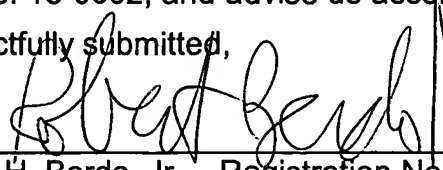
Applicant notes with great appreciation that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-20 as being allowable. Thus, claims 1-20 have been placed in condition for allowance, since claims 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, 15, 19, and 20 have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the examiner.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



February 9, 2006

Date

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RHB/vm

AMENDMENT
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